



KCTCS access initiative

Purpose

As college costs continue to rise, maintaining college access and affordability will help more Kentuckians earn bachelor's degrees. Ensuring community and technical colleges remain affordable is vital. It is also important to encourage student transfer, strengthen the P-16 education pipeline, increase the diversity of the college-going population, and raise awareness of the importance of earning a degree.

Proposal

To preserve the role of KCTCS as an affordable, accessible entry point into postsecondary education, the Council requests \$7.5 million in 2008-09 and an additional \$7.5 million in 2009-10 to defray the operations and instructional expenses during a freeze on KCTCS tuition increases.

How it works

These funds will be allocated to KCTCS upon a Council-accepted plan that outlines how the additional state investment will support access initiatives at KCTCS

including desired short-term outcomes (new enrollments, increased persistence rates, student transfers, etc.). The Council expects a portion of these funds to be used for additional need-based student financial aid and transfer scholarships. General guidelines for the plan will be presented to the Council in winter 2008.

Measuring success

The Council will annually review KCTCS costs and outcomes and report progress to the General Assembly. This process will assess progress and determine whether to request an increase in KCTCS base General Fund appropriations in the following biennium or designate an amount appropriated to the Council for further monitoring.

Other statewide college access initiatives

The Council also recommends:

- \$3 million to support the college access outreach and extension initiatives that provide motivational, streamlined, and relevant financial aid and college-going information to key audiences.
- \$1.5 million to support expanded transfer strategies and resources.
- \$1.5 million to provide staff for local P-16 councils that support local initiatives to increase college access in their communities.
- \$300,000 to support diversity planning efforts to ensure equitable college access for all Kentuckians.

Highlights

- New funding of \$7.5 million in 2008-09 and an additional \$7.5 million in 2009-10.
- Maintains affordability and preserves the role of KCTCS as an accessible entry point into postsecondary education.
- Invested funds will support access initiatives, and outcomes will be monitored and reported.